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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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SECSTATE WASHDC 8764

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USIAC

USIA FOR IEA, IOR; CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR; SECSTATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS

REF : PAO LETTER NO.12

1. ATMOSPHERICS:

-- PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO DISCUSSED SOCIAL THEORIES AND CRITICIZED TAIWAN'S CURRENT TELEVISION FARE DURING LEGISLATIVE YUAN INTERPELLATION. HE SAID ETHICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SHOULD FURTHER CHINA'S INHERENT MORALS AND VIRTUES TO BUILD VIVID AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY AND IDEOLOGICAL GREAT WALL TO CRUSH PRC'S EVIL THEORIES. SOCIAL EDUCATION MUST EMPHASIZE ETHICAL VIRTUES AND SPIRITUAL CIVILIZATION IN ORDER THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL CAN BE TRAINED AS MODERN CITIZEN: "IF WE CAN DEFEAT CHINESE COMMUNISTS ON IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE-FIELD, WE CAN DEFEAT THEM ON ANY BATTLEFIELD." ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTION, HE CRITICIZED THE CURRENT SERIES OF SOAP OPERA-TYPE DRAMAS WHICH DOMINATE TAIWAN'S PRIME-TIME TELEVISION; HOWEVER, HE PRAISED TELEVISION PEKING OPERA DRAMAS WHICH HE SAID CONTRIBUTED TO FURTHERING CHINA'S INHERENT ETHICAL VIRTUES. MINISTER OF EDUCATION TSIANG
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YEN-SHIH ADDED SINCE TELEVISION HAS TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE

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ON YOUTH, TELEVISION DRAMAS WILL BE THOROUGHLY SCREENED IN FUTURE AND STATIONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED CHANGE CONTENT AFTER OFFICIAL APPROVAL.

-- FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN TOLD LEGISLATORS THERE NO NEED FOR FURTHER COMMENT ON RICHARD NIXON'S RECENT CHINA TRIP WHICH REGARDED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT AS "PRIVATE TOUR BY A PRIVATE CITIZEN." SHEN ALSO SAID MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO CHOW SHU-KAI IS IN CHARGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SENT OFFICIAL INVITATIONS, ROC WILL ATTEND MORE THAN 50 ACTIVITIES IN SOME 30 STATES MOSTLY SPONSORED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON VOLUNTARY BASIS, SHEN SAID.

-- AUSTRALIAN-FREE CHINA SOCIETY (AFCS) OFFERING "TOUR SCHOLARSHIP" TO TAIWAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHOSEN BY SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THAT SOCIETY. SCHOLARSHIP INCLUDES AIR FARE AND A FOUR-WEEK TOUR OF AUSTRALIA SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR. INTERNAL TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND SOME POCKET MONEY ALSO INCLUDED IN GRANT. AFCS ISSUED PRESS RELEASE, PICKED UP BY LOCAL PAPERS, ADVERTISING FOR APPLICANTS WHO SPEAK COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH AND WHO ARE WILLING BE INTERVIEWED ON RADIO AND TV AND GIVE LECTURES AT UNIVERSITIES. ACCORDING PRESS RELEASE, APPROVED APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT AN ORIGINAL THESIS ON SUBJECT "AUSTRALIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARE NATURAL PARTNERS" OF NO MORE THAN 10.000 WORDS IN LENGTH TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY STATISTICAL TABLES, GRAPHS, MAPS AND DIAGRAMS.

2. MEDIA REACTION:

-- NEW LIFE DAILY NEWS (HSIN SHENG PAO - 90,000) AND INDEPENDENCE EVENING POST (TSI LI WAN PAO - 40,000) SAW GRADUAL SHIFT IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AS EVIDENCED BY PRESIDENT FORD'S NEW EMPHASIS ON "PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH," SECRETARY KISSINGER'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS TO LATIN AMERICAN ALLIES AND ADMIRAL GAYLER'S SENATE TESTIMONY ON STRONG MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIAN PACIFIC AREA. U.S. IS STILL NATION OF WISDOM AND VITALITY WITH NO

INTENTION OF BECOMING SECONDARY NATION, WEAK AND PARALYZED BY "DETENTE," PAPERS SAID. (SEE SIMILAR COMMENTS IN LAST WEEK'S REPORT.)

-- ARRIVAL OF YALE'S PROFESSOR DAVID ROWE FOR 10-DAY PRIVATE VISIT RECEIVED HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE. HE QUOTED AS SAYING AT AIRPORT SINCE GREAT MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANT TO MAINTAIN FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC, U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION

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EFFORTS HAVE RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES. LARGEST-CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (LIEN HO PAO - 350,000) QUOTED ROWE SAYING AMONG OTHER THINGS IN SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW:

(1) PRESIDENT FORD PROBABLY DIDN'T DELIBERATE AT LENGTH ON GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DETENTE" AND "PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH," (2) "PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH" ACTUALLY MEANS "PEACE THROUGH CONFRONTATION," (3) FORD POSSIBLY WANTS TO USE NEW TERM TO COOL PEKING'S DISSATISFACTION OVER U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE POLICIES AND (4) THERE NO REASON FOR ROC TO BE "PESSIMISTIC" ABOUT U.S. RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IN ANY EVENT WILL WIN NO SYMPATHY -- "WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IS TO SEEK CHANGES OF HEART AMONG THOSE IN WASHINGTON THROUGH YOUR STRENGTH."

3. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

-- 16-MEMBER CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE CULTURAL PRESENTATA-
TION, PLAYED TWO CONCERTS IN TAIPEI
AND ONE IN TAICHUNG (MARCH 6-8) TO TOTAL AUDIENCE APPRO-
XIMATELY 2,700. ALTHOUGH PERFORMANCES NOT FINANCIAL SUCCESSES FOR IMPRESARIO WHO LOST OVER $1,000, MUSIC WARMLY AND, AT TIMES, EVEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED WITH SHOUTS OF "BRAVO." RECEPTION GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR UNGER FOR GROUP FOLLOWING OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE ATTENDED BY GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC AND MUSIC LEADERS.

CHINA DAILY NEWS DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES AS EXPERIMENT IN NEW MUSIC TO WHICH REACTIONS IN TAIWAN MIXED. BYLINERS BY LOCAL MUSICIANS IN UNITED DAILY NEWS AND CHINA TIMES HAILED "FRESH AIR" BROUGHT BY ENSEMBLE TO LOCAL MUSIC SCENE.

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-- MINISTRY NATIONAL DEFENSE POLITICAL WARFARE COLLEGE REQUESTED 10 ADDITIONAL COPIES EACH USIS FOREIGN POLICY BACKGROUNDER FROM IPS WIRELESS FILE FOR STAFF TRAINING PROGRAMS.
CLARKE

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